



# Department of Justice

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## **MILWAUKEE POLICE OFFICERS TO PLEAD GUILTY IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Wan J. Kim, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin Steven M. Biskupic, and Special Agent in Charge of the Milwaukee Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Richard K. Ruminski, announced the following:

1. Former Milwaukee Police Officer Jon Clausing has been charged with conspiring with other off-duty Milwaukee police officers to violate the civil rights of Frank Jude and Lovell Harris by assaulting them on October 24, 2004.
2. Milwaukee Police Officer Joseph Schabel has been charged with violating the civil rights of Frank Jude by assaulting him on October 24, 2004; and with obstruction of justice for lying about details of the assault.
3. Both Clausing and Schabel have agreed to plead guilty and cooperate in the ongoing federal investigation.

Under the charges, Clausing faces up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000; Schabel faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$500,000.

In documents filed in federal court today, Clausen admitted that he and other Milwaukee Police officers conspired to deprive Frank Jude and Lovell Harris of their civil rights not to be subjected to unreasonable seizure and unreasonable force. Clausen admitted that he and other off-duty officers participated in an assault of Jude and Harris that included cutting Harris with a knife and repeatedly punching, kicking and otherwise assaulting Jude because they believed Jude and Harris might have stolen a police badge.

Also in the documents, Schabel admitted that while on duty as a Milwaukee Police Officer, responding to the scene of the Jude assault, Schabel kicked Jude in the head during the altercation involving the off-duty officers and Jude. Schabel also admitted that he subsequently lied about the assault in official reports and sworn testimony.

In announcing the guilty plea, Assistant Attorney General Kim commended the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, and the FBI for jointly spearheading this continuing federal investigation, which included the assistance of local authorities.

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic also noted the significant contribution of the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, investigators from the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office and the Milwaukee Police Department.

Biskupic also commended the work of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mel Johnson and Carol Kraft and Civil Rights Division attorneys Stephen Curran and Edward Caspar.

The Civil Rights Division is committed to the vigorous enforcement of every federal criminal civil rights statute, such as those laws that prohibit the willful use of excessive force or other acts of misconduct by law enforcement officials. In fact, the Division has compiled a significant record on criminal civil rights prosecutions in the last five years. Since FY 2001, the Division has increased the number of official misconduct prosecutions by 16 percent in comparison to the previous five years. The Division has charged 11 percent more defendants in color of law cases during the same time frame, and convicted 30 percent more defendants.

The public is cautioned that the charging documents issued against the defendants are the formal method of bringing a case into federal court. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they formally enter guilty pleas in court and those pleas are accepted by a judge or until the defendants are found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt by a jury.

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